



West Fertilizer Plant Explosion

Regional Update

May 2, 2013, 1900 CDT

- TCEQ continued air monitoring activities throughout the day during operations. Air monitoring was done primarily around perimeter of West Fertilizer facility. Real-time stationary air monitoring was conducted for VOCs and ammonia.

- On May 1, 2013 TCEQ contractors removed an estimated 7 gallons of product from a tank on the West Fertilizer property to allow for continuation of ATF investigation. TCEQ reported that the product was mostly fertilizer based containing phosphates.
- During the May 1, 2013 Debris Management meeting topics discussed between EPA, FEMA, State, and local officials included disposal of debris in residential front yards/ROW, HHW and white goods staging and disposal, and demolition of damaged structures (e.g. single family homes and multi family apartment building).
- The City of West has planned for residents to drop off HHW for collection on May 4-5, 2013. A notice has been issued and posted on the City of West website (<http://www.cityofwest.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/HHW.jpg>)
- EPA discussed with TCEQ officials subject of asbestos-containing material (ACM) and necessary actions during demolition and disposal of potential ACM.
- EPA will attend the next debris management meeting on May 3, 2013. EPA will advise state and city officials of the importance of implementing NESHAP rules during the demolition and debris disposal activities.
- On May 1, 2013 EPA continued daytime air monitoring activities with three stationary sites to the west and north of the facility. The northern monitoring site was added to provide a downwind site during south winds. The site is approximately one half mile north of the fertilizer facility. EPA will continue monitoring for the same parameters that include volatile organic compounds and ammonia. No air monitoring readings above background were detected during today's operations.
- The public drinking water system is still being evaluated throughout the City of West. The TCEQ and City of West personnel continued to assessing the system. A boiled water notice remains in effect for residential areas immediately WNW of West Fertilizer facility (Zone 3).
- EPA met with CSB and OSHA to discuss continuing correspondence and information sharing following EPAs demobilization. CSB is attempting to initiate interviews with employees, firefighters, and other West Fertilizer affiliated individuals. CSB may potentially collect additional samples for evidence during on-going investigations. CSB has agreed to provide sample results to EPA. EPA and CSB will schedule a meeting via conference call, face-to-face, or email to discuss and provide updates next week.
- EPA continues to coordinate with FEMA, ATF, OSHA, CSB, TCEQ, DSHS, and the Office of the Texas State Chemist on current and future site operations.
- An official statement of the cause of the incident has not been released. ATF investigations into the order of events and cause of the explosion are on-going.
- State Fire Marshall and ATF reported that possible site demob scheduled for 5/10/2013.
- TCEQ was contacted by RP's insurance contractor for reclamation activities following ATFs departure. Reclamation operations may include the recovery/removal of any remaining product, recyclables, equipment, tanks, and contents or rail hopper car.
- START personnel demobilized from the site on May 2, 2013. The MCP and command trailer are scheduled for demobilization on May 3, 2013.
- Coordination with TCEQ will continue following EPA demob from site.

Personnel	EPA OSC In Field	EPA RSC in Field	R6 Contractor In Field	National Criminal Enforcement Response Team Agents	EPA In REOC	Contractor In REOC	Total
Total	1	0	0	0	1	0	2

*Current as of 1900hrs 4/30. OSC's deployed with the Mobile Command Post.